

Foundries Industry Advisory Committee

Minutes of the 14th meeting of the Foundries Industry Advisory Committee held
on Thursday 14 October 2010 at 10.30 am, HSE Office, 1 Hagley Road,
Birmingham, B16 8HS

Present:

Dr P Smith
Mr B Hudspith
Mr J Easton
Mr R Flynn
Mr N Talbot
Mr C Mills
Mr D Bartlett
Mr J Parker
Mr G Morley
Mr M Shenton
Mr D Oddy
Mr M Bone
Mrs S Polak
Mr J McAlinden
Ms C Flannigan

Representing:

HSE (Chair)
Unite
Unite
Hexion/Momentive
Terrill Bros (Founders) Ltd
CTI
W H Rowe
Cast Metals Federation (CMF)
Cast Metals Federation (CMF)
James W Shenton Ltd
Federal Mogul
HSE
HSE
HSE
HSE (minutes)

Apologies:

Dr P Murrell
Mr K Gilroy
Mr S Nicholas

Representing:

ICME
Doncasters Group
St Gobain PAM UK Ltd

1. Welcome and Apologies.

- 1.1 Chair welcomed members to the meeting and introduced Roy Flynn, Hexion/Momentive. Apologies as listed.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising.

- 2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

- (2.1) LEV Project Update: Mr Bone would circulate the project findings to members. It was suggested they be promoted via CMF and SHIFT. Further publicity could also be given via Safety Bulletins on HSE's Website.

Action: M Bone/J Parker

- (2.2) Additional Data: It was queried if there was any additional data available from the second year of the project. Mr Bone reported there had been difficulty obtaining the data but it should be available for the second half of the project. He would continue to liaise with John Parker, and in addition, discuss RPE with Glyn Morley. The information would be compiled and a date agreed for conclusion.

Action: M Bone

Members were informed that the Molten Metals website was being reviewed.

- (2.2 g) HSE Strategy: The constitution of this committee required updating in order to align with the HSE Strategy. It was proposed that a small Working Group be set up to carry out this task. When completed it would be circulated to members for consultation and brought back to the next FIAC meeting for agreement. Work would then commence on a Strategy for the Foundry Industry. Dr Smith to contact John Parker.

Action: Dr Smith

- (2.3) Load Security: Mr Bone had circulated a further request for photos of loads arriving or leaving premises that illustrated both good and bad practices. He had taken guidance from PABIAC regarding what to look for and would bring the information back to this committee. Mr Parker had also asked SHIFT members for likely photos as the issue had been raised at the SHIFT meeting. HSE and CMF would continue with development of this guidance. Mr Bone was waiting for Nina Day to contact him regarding photos she had taken. Mr Shenton agreed to submit likely photos to Mr Bone.

Action: M Bone/M Shenton

- (2.4) Workplace Temperature: HSE to check on the website and circulate any information to members. Not yet actioned – to be carried forward.

Action: M Bone

There was a view that as certain industries have issues with process heat, there should be a move towards implementing a maximum workplace temperature. Nothing further had materialised. Mr Bone would follow up with Policy Section.

Action: M Bone

- (2.5) Silica Users Group: STOTs versus WEL. John McAlinden reported back to the group with an explanation of the difference between a STOT and a WEL.

STOT stands for “Specific Target Organ Toxicity” under the new hazard classification system which is being introduced by the EU Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures (CLP Regulation) (EC 1272/2008).

The STOT-repeated exposure classification categories are roughly equivalent to the Xn; R48 and T; R48 (danger of serious damage to health by prolonged exposure) of the old classification system (CHIP 4, taken from the Dangerous Substances Directive).

There are also several STOT-single exposure classification categories, which replace R37, R39/23/24/25, R39/26/27/28, R67 and R68/20/21/22.

(3.1) Mr Bone to check if there was a link to the Falls Project website.

Action: M Bone

(3.2) Chair advised that BPDWG guidance was available on the Community site.

(4.1) Susan Polak’s presentation was not yet on the Community site. There had been difficulty uploading it possibly due to its size. Mr Bone would contact the relevant person on the Community Webteam.

Action: M Bone

(8.1) SHIFT – main agenda item.

(9.1) Furfuryl alcohol – main agenda item.

(10.1) RIDDOR stats: Members were advised that the RIDDOR stats for 2009-2010 would be released on 27 October 2010. There would be a press release from HSE. Mr Bone would do a comparison of HSE’s stats and industry stats and present the information at the next meeting.

Action: M Bone

He informed members there had been a problem uploading his presentation from the previous meeting on the 2008-2009 stats to the Community site. He would pursue the matter.

Action: M Bone

(11.2) RPE/DVD for inspector training – for discussion at agenda item 9.

(11.3) Mr Bone had spoken to Nick Vaughan from HSL – Personal Safety Unit. Nick has the Technical lead for PPE and arranged for Neil Samuel from Corus to give a PPE presentation at the SHIFT meeting.

Discharged

3. Dust Initiative – update.

3.1 Susan Polak gave an overview of the project. The project aims to:-

- ◆ raise awareness and improve workers’ knowledge of risk of exposure to dust, gases, fumes and vapours;
- ◆ promote correct use of the control measures to reduce exposures;
- ◆ encourage good working practice – change perceptions, attitudes and behaviours of those at risk.

Two partnership team meetings had taken place and a third meeting was scheduled for 1 November. HSE had commissioned some insights research on attitudes, behaviours and perceptions of employers and employees. Foundries employees were generally aware that their work environment was unhealthy but tended to accept that it was merely part of the foundry process without understanding the long-term health effects of exposure to dusts and fumes.

HSE are in the process of developing key messages for the project and at the next partnership team meeting will discuss the target audience and key influences in the delivery messages. Susan advised that as the project develops she may seek assistance from this committee.

Although it was acknowledged that there were poor performers, there was a view from the committee that this was not representative of the whole industry.

- 3.2 Mr Bone advised that NVQs were being assessed to ascertain whether the content of particular NVQs addressed health issues.
- 3.3 Members discussed the efficiency of LEV systems and whether there was a need for additional control measures particularly if in-house modifications had been carried out to the system by a person with insufficient expertise. There was also a view among members that there was sometimes a poor understanding among suppliers and engineers of systems.

John McAlinden informed members of five roadshows that had taken place to help potential customers ask relevant questions of LEV suppliers. He also informed them of a suppliers' charter meeting on LEV that would take place on 15 November and of two other initiatives that were being progressed. Furthermore, he advised members that there was considerable guidance material available to members if they required it.

Discussion followed about variation in standards of thorough examination, whether particular LEV systems were suitable for the job to be carried out and of the competence and qualifications of service engineers. Mr McAlinden informed members that there was a suppliers' check list on the HSE website and that there was a criteria for inspection and thorough examination. A question was asked if there were any member suppliers of LEV. It was thought that trade associations could recommend suitably qualified engineers. CMF would explore further among their members.

Action: J Parker

4. Foundries Long Latency Health Risks Project – update on work now done and what's next.

- 4.1 Mr McAlinden updated members on this item and reported that three Pilot visits had been completed. Three two-day visits had taken place where sample monitoring was carried out on 30 workers. Workers were generally receptive to the project, although older workers perhaps less so. LEV workstations had been identified. An area of concern was consultants employed through insurance companies giving appraisals on LEV systems. There was a view that insurance companies did not always employ engineers on merit but sometimes on basis of costs.

Considerable data had been amassed which required processing. The Pilot had formed the basis for the follow on project. A project report would be compiled by the year end. Mr McAlinden thanked CMF for their assistance.

- 4.2 Permission to be obtained from Dr P Griffin to upload the EXTEND topic report – “Benzene & Aromatic Amine exposures in Foundries” to the Community website.

Action: C Flannigan

- 4.3 Discussion took place on whether Benzene could be substituted for a less toxic catalyst. Cost could be an issue but there was also a protocol under the Chemical Agents Directive to be adhered to concerning substitution. It was not for HSE to prohibit or ban particular substances – this would need to be raised in Europe as a European-wide issue. Toulene and Sulphonic acids were put forward as alternatives. Mr McAlinden would feedback this information to the next partnership team meeting.

Action: J McAlinden

5. SHIFT Update.

- 5.1 John Parker provided members with an update from 6 July meeting. The main emphasis was on molten metal protective clothing. Presentations had been given by:-

- ◆ HSE - Nick Vaughan – Personal Safety Unit;
- ◆ Neil Samuel from Corus re: PPE;
- ◆ ALSICO – development of new Foundry PPE;
- ◆ Dusts, vapours, gases, fumes – presentation by Ipsos Mori of work commissioned by HSE into attitudes, beliefs and behaviours towards health risks at work;
- ◆ JVM Castings – presentation on simple Excel based accident statistics management tool.

There was a proposal for the Foundries Industry to have future dialogue with PPE suppliers.

Members discussed the Equality Law. This legislation aimed to protect employees from discrimination and exclusion from the workplace on the grounds of ill-health since employers were no longer permitted to ask particular health questions.

Members exchanged views on what could/could not be asked at interviews, debated the matter of pre-employment questionnaires, satisfactory probationary periods and specific terms and conditions in employee contracts. Mr Hudspith would seek clarity on Equality Law and report back to members.

Action: B Hudspith

6. Furfuryl Alcohol/Formaldehyde – update.

- 6.1

- ◆ Furfuryl alcohol – no further development;
- ◆ Formaldehyde limit 2ppm – HSE possibly looking at 1ppm;
- ◆ Mr McAlinden to explore DNELs re furfuryl alcohol;
- ◆ Mr Hudspith to provide feedback from ACTS;
- ◆ Mr Parker to find out from Europe?
- ◆ HSE to confirm if a consultation document was available.

7. Silica update - health surveillance.

- 7.1 A research report on workers exposed to Silica had been commissioned but had not yet been published. Members were informed it should be available by mid November. A meeting regarding health surveillance was scheduled for 12 November at HSL, Buxton. Dr Smith would provide an update from the meeting via the Community site.

Action: Dr Smith

Update: Members were sent a link to access the document "RR 827 Health Surveillance in Silica Exposed Workers". <http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrpdf/rr827.pdf>
The document had been placed on the Community site.

- 7.2 Mr Hudspith informed members that videos on dust reduction were available on the NEPSI website. <http://www.nepsi.eu/>

8. Electromagnetic Field Directive.

- 8.1 Mr Parker updated members on this matter. Monitoring was continuing as detailed information was needed in specific areas:-

- ◆ zoning around source of field to determine control level required;
- ◆ HSE will help to develop Directive proportionate to risk. The EC has listened to the views of industry groups and trade unions and has concluded that the original Directive needs a number of significant changes;
- ◆ The EC is looking to develop its proposal for an amended EMF Directive in December 2010.

This matter is an agenda item for a European meeting scheduled for w/c 18 October.

Action: Ongoing

9. RPE Project.

- 9.1 The minutes of the RPE Steering Group's 4th meeting, held on 23 September were circulated to members for information. Glyn Morley provided a summary.

The project was still on course to deliver all its outputs in the project brief. However, the RPE supply services research had been dropped as it could not be funded due to Government imposed restrictions on public spending. The RPE supply services research had intended to explore:-

- ◆ equipment supply – interaction with supplier, what advice is given to duty holder/users;
- ◆ determine how effective the interaction is, eg mystery shopper;
- ◆ advice at point of sale, eg handling properly, maintenance etc.

CMF expressed interest in contributing to this exercise and would consult further with their members.

Action: J Parker

HSE to enquire if someone from Social Science Unit can attend the next SHIFT meeting.

Action: M Bone

- 9.2 HSG 53 is likely to be revised and updated. Although technically very good it is regarded as not particularly user friendly. Development of supplementary industry specific guidance was considered to be a priority.

A Working Group would be set up to draft an HSE badged template – for approval by HSE. The template would be made available to industry to produce bespoke guidance.

Mr Bone invited members to consult with their member organisations for volunteers to form a sub-committee with a view to producing industry specific guidance for the Foundry Industry. A person from HSE would also be invited.

Action: M Bone

- 9.4 The inspection training DVD had now been completed. It is intended that the DVD will be available to the industry to assist organisations in developing good working practices and to raise awareness of issues that inspectors focus on during inspection visits. Mr Bone to circulate the DVD to members.

Action: M Bone

- 9.5 The newly developed RPE model simulator was now available. It was demonstrated at a recent BPCF SHAD in October. It aimed to change people's perceptions and understanding of RPE. The demonstration illustrated how smoke/dusts could be drawn into the lungs. It also illustrated how to fit a face mask correctly. However, face fit testing did not address the issue of face stubble. This was an area of concern. Mr Parker would raise this issue at the next SHIFT meeting. There is the potential for a video clip of the simulator to be put on the new RPE website when it is put together.

Action: J Parker/M Bone

- 9.6 Use of FFP3 masks in construction. The construction industry favoured FFP2 masks and had challenged the need to use FFP3 masks for stone/concrete cutting.

10. **Competence.**

- 10.1 Discussion took place whether some managers and supervisors were competent to carry forward health and safety policies or able to identify specific training needs. Members felt the issue of competence required clearer definition regarding types of training, syllabuses, level of NVQs and experience. It was suggested that FIAC could produce a statement concerning competence for management. It was also proposed that a person from Proskills be invited to a future FIAC meeting to talk about health and safety.

Action: M Bone

- 10.2 Mr Bone notified members of a fatality to a 40-year-old worker in Hampshire that involved lifting a large casting box. Investigation by HSE and the Police was ongoing. Members were asked to consider and renew what routine lifting practices were taking place in the industry, what type of lifting equipment was used and examination of that equipment as well as training courses available. Members were invited to report any matters of concern to Mr Bone or Mr Parker.

Action: Members

- 10.3 Members were advised that Martin Shenton would be resigning from the FIAC committee after the March 2011 meeting. Chair thanked Mr Shenton for his contributions to FIAC and wished him well.

Members were also informed that Kevin Gilroy had left the Doncasters Group and had moved to a company in a different Industry Sector; he has therefore resigned from FIAC. The Chair thanked Mr Gilroy for his contributions and wished him well.

11. Future Meeting Dates.

11.1 Tuesday 1 March 2011 at 10.30 am, Cast Metals Federation, National Metalforming Centre, 47 Birmingham Road, West Bromwich, B70 6PY.

Wednesday 19 October 2011 at 10.30 am HSE Office, 1 Hagley Road, Birmingham, B16 8HS.